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TAGS: [PREL](#) [ODPC](#) [PREL](#) [OVIP](#) [GR](#)
SUBJECT: GREECE: CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT
PAPOULIAS TO PRESIDENT-ELECT OBAMA

REF: STATE 118942

¶1. Greek President Karolos Papoulias has sent a congratulatory letter to President-elect Obama. We understand that the original is being delivered through the Greek Embassy in Washington. However, the President's office has provided us with a courtesy copy of the English translation, which is provided in paragraph 2 below.

¶2. BEGIN TEXT

His Excellency
Senator Barak Obama
President-elect of the United States of America

I would like to extend my warmest congratulations on your overwhelming and historic victory which brought a breath of fresh air.

You are assuming the leadership of the United States at a highly critical time. International relations are replete with new tensions and challenges carrying serious risks. Global economy is going through a profound crisis as a result of mistakes made, while the need for a new environmental policy has become imperative.

Our large Greek-American community in the United States appreciates your views as regards issues of Greek concern and I am confident that relations between the two countries will further strengthen and flourish during your term of office.

Looking forward to meeting you, I wish you strength and every success.

Karolos Papoulias

END TEXT
SPECKHARD